Percy LeFroy Mapleton

On a Monday afternoon, 27 June 1881, a murder was committed on the 2 o'clock express railway train travelling from London Bridge to Brighton. A regular traveller and coin dealer by the name of Isaac Gold entered a first-class smoking compartment of the third carriage, and was later joined by a young man, Percy LeFroy Mapleton. When the train reached Preston Park, Percy Mapleton emerged in a blood-stained and dishevelled condition, stating that he had been attacked on the journey. There was a watch chain protruding from his shoe. He was then taken further on down the line to Brighton, escorted by Richard Gibson, the ticket collector at Preston Park. At Brighton station, Mapleton maintained to Henry Anscombe, the station master, and to Police Inspector Gibson, that he had been shot and wounded during his journey. He was searched and was found to have two Hanoverian medals in his pockets, similar to coins which had also been earlier in the blood-stained railway compartment.

Nobody was satisfied with Mapleton's account of himself, but, presuming that nobody had left the moving carriage after the train's last stop at East Croydon, the police concluded that the young man might have been attempting suicide, which was then a criminal offence. He was taken to the police station where Detective Constable Howland interviewed him and took details of his alleged assailants, before passing him on to the hospital where his wounds, which were very much less serious than the amount of blood would first suggest, were treated. He was then, as a precaution, taken back to his home in Wallington, Surrey by Detective Sergeant George Holmes, but, during this journey, a telegram from the Station Master at Balcombe, an intermediate station on the line, arrived which changed the situation dramatically, *'Man found dead this afternoon in tunnel here. Name on papers "I Gold". He is now lying here. Reply quick.'*

Holmes left Mapleton, who was becoming the prime suspect in a murder enquiry, at Mapleton's home for a period, during which he escaped, and the hunt to re-capture him was notable for the Director of Criminal Intelligence, Howard Vincent's appeal to the press for their help. The *Daily Telegraph* (1 July 1881) published the police description of Mapleton as:

> *'Age 22, middle height, very thin, sickly appearance, scratches on throat, wounds on head, probably clean shaved, low felt hat, black coat, teeth much discoloured.'*

In an age when images were rare compared to the present day, the Victorians were often far more adept at describing people verbally than we could probably manage today, and the Mapleton case gave the *Daily Telegraph* much scope for expanding on the police description more graphically:

> *'He is very round shouldered, and his thin overcoat hangs in awkward folds about his spare figure. His forehead and chin are both receding. He has a slight moustache, and very small dark whiskers. His jawbones are prominent, his cheeks sunken and sallow, and his teeth fully exposed when laughing. His upper lip is thin and drawn inwards. His eyes are grey and large. His gait is singular; he is inclined to slouch and when not carrying a bag, his left hand is usually in his pocket. He generally carries a crutch stick.'*

But far more significantly, the *Daily Telegraph* published an artist's impression of Mapleton by using the assistance of a person who knew the young man well. This was the first time that such a picture had been used in this way by any newspaper, and it created enormous public interest. This public interest resulted in an informant going to Scotland Yard and giving information to Detective Inspector Donald Swanson who then arrested Mapleton in Stepney.

Thomas Muller and the Railway Murder

The story started on the evening of Saturday 9 July 1864 when two bank clerks boarded a Highbury-bound North London Railway train at Hackney and found their first-class compartment to be soaked in blood. In the compartment was a walking stick which had apparently been used as a weapon, a leather bag belonging to a Mr Briggs, and a hat. There was no sign of a victim of any attack. Soon afterwards, the victim, Mr Thomas Briggs, Chief Clerk in the bank of Messrs Robarts, Curtis & Co of Lombard Street in the City of London, was found unconscious on the railway track with a serious head wound. His hat and his pocket watch were missing, and he died the following evening. The attack had apparently been carried out on the 5-minute journey between Bow and Hackney Wick.

Inspector Richard Tanner was put on to the case. There were two immediate lines of enquiry. Firstly, a description of Mr Briggs' stolen gold watch and chain was circulated. Information soon came in that a silversmith in Cheapside had taken in Mr Briggs' watch chain on the Monday, two days after the attack. The silversmith, who rejoiced in the name of John Death, described the man as having a sallow complexion with thin features, wearing a black frock coat and vest, and probably German.

The second clue was that the suspect appeared to have put on Mr Briggs' hat by mistake and to have left his own hat behind at the scene of the crime. The suspect's hat was unusual and had been cut down, resulting in it being shorter than Mr Briggs' silk top hat. The alteration had been made not by a hatter, but by somebody who also sewed neatly. A £300 reward offered for the apprehension of the murderer resulted in a cab driver by the name of Matthews coming forward. He had purchased a hat for a young German tailor called Franz Müller, who had given Matthews' young daughter a box bearing Mr Death's name at about 3pm on the Monday. Fortunately Mr Matthews' wife had been

given an address in Bethnal Green where Müller would be staying, but Inspector Tanner found when he called there that his suspect had already left England on the ship *Victoria* bound for America.

But Tanner set sail from Liverpool in a faster ship, *ss City of Manchester,* reached New York before Müller, and initiated extradition proceedings to bring him back to London. Crowds waited at Euston station for a glimpse of Müller, and, when the party finally arrived, they expressed their indignation at him before he was driven off to Bow Street court, which is still today the traditional court for dealing with extradition cases. There were some suggestions that there had been another man in the carriage assisting Müller when he attacked Thomas Briggs, but it was Müller alone who was sent for trial at the Old Bailey. He was convicted and executed at Newgate in November 1864.

This was a case where Richard Tanner had started to build up Scotland Yard's international reputation. *The Times* said in October of that year that no murderer had excited such interest since Courvoisier for the killing of Lord William Russell in June 1840, or Dr William Palmer for the poisoning of a Mr Cook in May 1856.

The detection and successful prosecution of Franz Müller had satisfied the public that violence on the new railways would be efficiently dealt with. It also indicated the commitment which Scotland Yard showed in the first chase of a fugitive across the Atlantic, and provides an early example of using an extradition treaty to bring a criminal to justice.

The Infamous Charlie Peace (1832 - 1879)

Charles Peace was notorious for his activities as a prolific and clever burglar whilst being wanted for murder in Sheffield despite his appearance as a well-dressed, violin-playing, respectable man. After being caught by PC Edward Robinson on his beat at Blackheath, Peace was sentenced to death - and then confessed to a second murder - of a police officer - in Manchester 2 years earlier.

Born in Sheffield on 14th May 1832, Peace had reputedly injured his leg whilst serving his apprenticeship at a rolling-mill in Sheffield, but was nevertheless agile and strong for a man of small stature (5' 3-4"). He later wandered from town to town collecting and selling musical instruments and bric-a-brac. He played the violin well enough to perform at local concerts, as well as at public houses In November 1876, after the murder of Arthur Dyson, Peace then went on the run, finally settling in East Terrace, Peckham, where he drove his pony and trap around South East London by day, burgled houses by night, and used the name of Thompson.

The series of daring burglaries caused public fear and consternation, and the police were under pressure to make an arrest. Events came to a head at about 2am on 10th October 1878.
PC Edward Robinson was patrolling Blackheath when he noticed a flickering light in the rooms of 2 St John's Park. He called for assistance, and then, after Peace had jumped out of a window, chased him across the garden. Despite being shot at five times and wounded, PC Robinson gallantly held on to Peace, and, with the assistance of other officers, Peace was finally taken into custody.

The prisoner gave his name as John Ward, and was convicted at the Old Bailey on 19th November 1878 of attempting to murder PC Robinson. He was sentenced to penal servitude for life. PC Robinson was given a £25 reward on the recommendation of the jury.

Living in Peckham with Peace (or John Ward or Thompson) had been a "Mrs Thompson", otherwise his widowed girl friend Susan Grey (or Bailey). This was before the age of finger prints. It transpired, possibly from a letter from Newgate prison from "John Ward" requesting a visit from a neighbour, that the church - going respectable Mr Ward was in fact Charles Peace with a £100 reward outstanding for his arrest for murder. "Mrs Thompson" became obliged to admit the real facts of "John Ward's" true identity. Peace was then taken from Pentonville prison to Sheffield where he stood trial for the murder of Arthur Dyson, but not before throwing himself from a train in an unsuccessful bid to escape from his escorting prison officers.

On 4th February 1879, Peace's trial began at Leeds Assizes, the jury convicted him after deliberating for 12 minutes, and he was sentenced to death. Before his execution on 25th February 1879, however, Peace made a confession to a priest and admitted the shooting of another police officer, PC Nicholas Cock in Manchester, who had also disturbed in the course of attempting a burglary. 18-year old William Habron had been convicted and sentenced to death for this murder. Peace had even attended the trial, but had kept silent, thereby condoning a miscarriage of justice.
PC Robinson was treated as a hero by the residents of Blackheath, who presented him with an inscribed pocket watch, which was later purchased by the Friends of the Metropolitan Police Museum.

The Shepherd's Bush Murders

One of the most traumatic murder cases in London occurred one summer afternoon on 12th August 1966 when the crew of F 11 Q Car was cold-bloodedly murdered near Wormwood Scrubs prison.

The three officers were Detective Sergeant Christopher Head, Detective Constable David Wombwell and PC Geoffrey Fox, all of whom were attached to Shepherd's Bush police station. They approached a battered blue Standard Vanguard Estate car with three suspects inside in Braybrook Street, and Christopher Head and David Wombwell questioned the occupants. The suspects were John Witney, owner of the car, John Duddy, and the infamous Harry Roberts. It was Roberts who pulled out a gun, and turned a routine police stop into a gruesome murder by shooting David Wombwell. Roberts then pursued Christopher Head towards the police car and shot him also, whilst Duddy fired at and killed Geoffrey Fox.

The three criminals raced away from the scene, and the biggest manhunt for many years began. It had been the first time that three officers had been murdered in one incident since three City of London officers had died in Houndsditch in the prelude to the Sidney Street siege of 1911, and the whole of the police service was shocked at the outrage. Public reaction was no less intense, and there were many calls for the re-introduction of the recently abolished death penalty for some types of murder.

Fortunately the number of their car had been taken.

John Witney was the first to be arrested, having been traced through his ownership of the car, and he admitted the involvement of Duddy and Roberts. Duddy was traced to Scotland, but Roberts was on the run for about 3 months before he was caught camping out in Hertfordshire.

A memorial service at Westminster Abbey was attended by thousands of police officers, with the Queen represented, and the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition attending.

The Police Dependants' Trust was formed as the reaction to this case, received many donations to support those left behind by such tragedies, and the charity's continuing existence has become a silver lining to the very dark cloud represented by this tragic case.

George Joseph Smith and the "Brides in the Bath" case

It was a report in *The News of the World* about the tragic inquest of Margaret Lloyd, a bride who had drowned in her bath in Highgate a week before Christmas 1914 which prompted a Mr Charles Burnham and a Mrs Crossley to go to the police, and which brought Divisional Detective Inspector Neil of the Metropolitan Police to investigate a complicated case of bigamy and murder.

Mr Burnham was a Buckingham fruit grower whose 25-year old daughter Alice had married George Smith in Portsmouth in November 1913, despite parental objections. The couple went on a holiday to Blackpool where Mrs Crossley had been their landlady. Alice had also drowned in her bath just on 12th December 1913, not long after her wedding in October of that year.

When John Lloyd attended his solicitor's office to receive the money due to him as the result of the death of Margaret Lloyd (nee Lofty) the police were waiting for him, and he later admitted that he was the same man George Smith who had married Alice Burnham.

The year before Alice Burnham's death in Blackpool, Bessie Munday had died on 13th July 1912 whilst taking a bath in Herne Bay where she was staying with her husband, Henry Williams, whom she had married in Weymouth in August 1910. "Henry Williams" transpired to be none other than George Smith.

Enquiries showed that Smith had conducted seven bigamous marriages between 1908 and 1914.

At the age of 26, in January 1898, using the name of George Love, Smith had married, legally and for the first time, 18-year old Caroline Thornhill in Leicester. They moved to London, and she worked as a maid for a number of employers, stealing from them under her husband's tuition. Caroline Love was

arrested in Worthing, trying to pawn some silver spoons, and she was sent to prison for 12 months. On her release she incriminated her husband, who was then jailed for two years in January 1901. On his release , Mrs Love fled to Canada.

In June 1908 Smith met a widow from Worthing, Florence Wilson, and married her three weeks later. By 3rd July he had left her after taking £30 she had withdrawn from her savings account, and selling all her belongings.

By 30th July 1908 he had married Edith Pegler in Bristol who had replied to his advertisement for a house keeper. Then, in October 1909 he married Miss Sarah Freeman, using the name of George Rose. He also married Alice Reid in September 1914, using the name of Charles Oliver James.

Smith apparently had a masterful, hypnotic way with some women, a trait which was only exceeded by his ruthlessness in acquiring their money. When he appeared at the Old Bailey, charged with murdering Alice Burnham, Bessie Munday and Margaret Lloyd, Detective Inspector Neil demonstrated to the jury the method of drowning his victims by raising their knees whilst they were in the bath. His assistant, a nurse in a bathing costume, herself required artificial respiration after the court room demonstration, and Smith was duly convicted.

Smith's trial took place during the dark days of the First World War, and the Judge, Mr Justice Scrutton, remarked upon the irony that "..while this wholesale destruction of human life is going on, for some days all the apparatus of justice in England has been considering whether one man should die..." The jury returned their Guilty verdict in 22 minutes, and Smith was executed on Friday 13th August at Maidstone prison.

Caroline Thornhill, whom Smith had married legally, was now a widow, and she married a Canadian soldier the day after Smith's execution.

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Identification Problems

Gottfried Hessel

The murder of 27-year-old Harriet Buswell (alias Clara Burton) at 12 Great Coram Street WC1 on Christmas Eve 1872 created enormous controversy. The victim had left her lodgings at about 10pm on 24 December after borrowing a shilling (5p) from a fellow lodger, and had returned with a male guest, supposedly a German, at about midnight. She had returned home with bags of apples, oranges and nuts as well as her guest, and was then able to pay her landlady half a sovereign (50p). After Harriet Buswell had entertained her guest in her room that night, the man was heard to leave the house at 6.30am on Christmas morning. At about midday, other occupants of the house, concerned about not seeing her, opened her room and found the unfortunate Harriet brutally murdered. Superintendent Thompson of E Division took charge of the investigation.

The suspicion that the murder was a foreigner led to the Ramsgate police suspecting Carl Wohlebbe, the assistant surgeon of a German brig *Wangerland*, which had been in port, undergoing repairs during the Christmas period. Inspector Harnett therefore travelled from London to Ramsgate with witnesses and an identification parade was held where witnesses picked out not Carl Wohlebbe, but the ship's chaplain Dr Gottfried Hessel. So Dr Hessel was charged and appeared before Bow Street magistrates court. Superintendent Thompson proved that Hessel had been in London on the night in question, and the identification of the two witnesses at Ramsgate was sufficient for him to be remanded in custody.

When Dr Hessel appeared at Bow Street on the following week, 29 January, two other witnesses also identified him in the dock, but others were not sure. A housemaid from the Royal Hotel in Ramsgate testified that Dr Hessel had asked for some turpentine and a clothes brush when he had returned

from London after Christmas, and there was also evidence that one of Dr Hessel's handkerchiefs had been saturated with blood. Dr Hessel gave alibi evidence that because of illness he had never left his London hotel on the night in question, and he was supported by Carl Wohlebbe. Despite the case being conducted by lawyers, the police had apparently not been asked to interview witnesses to investigate this alibi. The magistrate, Mr Vaughan, discharged Dr Hessel from the court, declaring that he was being released without suspicion. The case generated enormous publicity. Dr Hessel was cheered by the crowds and a public subscription was raised for him by *The Daily Telegraph* before his departure for Brazil.

But not everybody viewed Dr Hessel as an innocent clergyman. Shortly afterwards, a letter was received from Germany exposing a less reputable side of his life, but as the author(s) were anonymous, and Dr Hessel had by that time been acquitted, no account could be taken of it, nor could its true significance be assessed :

Adolf Beck

The years around the turn of the twentieth century provided a more notorious case of mistaken identity than Dr Hessel. Adolf Beck was arrested on two occasions, in 1896 and 1904, after female victims of fraud wrongly identified him in the street. The frauds all had a distinctive method whereby a man, purporting to be a member of the aristocracy, would approach women, invite them to go sailing with him, and present them with a cheque (which bounced) for the purchase of clothes. He, in turn, took one or more of their rings as a sample of their finger size, saying that he would go to a jeweller's to buy a better ring. The man then disappeared, having pawned the victim's ring.

The culprit, a German named Weiss, was convicted in 1877, but Beck was picked out in the street, and at identification parades in 1896 and convicted, despite dubious evidence from a handwriting expert. After his release he was again picked out in the street, and convicted again of more incidents of the same method in 1904, but whilst in prison, awaiting sentence for his second wrongful conviction, the real offender played the same trick on two other women and, by good fortune, was immediately arrested. Beck at last had a cast-iron alibi because this time he was in prison, and the identity of the other man could be established.

Beck was prosecuted because of the peculiar and consistent method of the frauds, his similarity in appearance to the real offender, the opinion of a handwriting expert named Gurrin, and a succession of female victims who identified him for two prosecutions. The recollections of the women may have been at fault, but they were in good company. Elliss Spurrell, the police officer who had originally arrested Weiss, alias John Smith in 1877, gave evidence at the magistrates court that Adolf Beck was the same man, and the prosecuting counsel at the Old Bailey in the 'John Smith' case was the trial judge, Sir Forrest Fulton, who dealt with Adolf Beck's first trial in 1896.

The credit for resolving this miscarriage of justice lay firstly with the 1904 trial judge, Mr Justice Grantham, who had lingering doubts about Beck's guilt and had delayed concluding the case despite apparently strong prosecution evidence and procedures. It was in this period of delay, before being sentenced, that the crucial arrest of the real offender took place. Much credit is also due to Inspector John Kane for his action in making a series of formal reports to investigate William Thomas thoroughly, and to establish that he was the same man as the John Smith who had been convicted in 1877.

Kane had been in court during Beck's 1896 trial and knew that it had been accepted on both sides that the handwriting in the 1877 and the 1896 frauds was identical. The issue was whether the handwriting expert Gurrin was right to claim that the writing was Beck's being disguised. Kane examined the writing of the recent prisoner William Thomas and found that it was strikingly similar to the letters on which Beck had been convicted. Beck was Norwegian, and claimed that the fraudster was a German. John Kane established the real identity of the original John Smith (and hence also of the recently arrested William Thomas) as a German, or Austrian, named William Weiss. He brought three witnesses who had identified Beck to an identification parade, and they unhesitatingly picked out Weiss as the culprit. This proved Beck's innocence, and he was awarded £5,000 compensation for the miscarriage of justice he had suffered.

Early Murder Investigations

In the first twelve years of the Metropolitan Police's existence there was no detective branch.

One murder case in 1831 involved the scandal of robbing graves in order to provide bodies for medical training. This was not a specific offence at the time if no property had been stolen with the body, but the murder of an Italian boy by grave robbers in 1831 went beyond the activities of normal 'resurrectionists'. Their desire to find a fresh body which could be offered for sale to a medical school actually led them to commit a murder for this purpose. The case was investigated by local Superintendent Joseph Thomas of F (Covent Garden) Division, and it resulted in the execution of a John Bishop and Thomas Williams amid much publicity and scandal.

Another difficult case involved the gruesome murder of Hannah Brown, whose torso was found in Edgware Road in December 1836. Her head was found 10 days later in a canal near Stepney, and the legs were found in Camberwell. It was ten weeks before the victim was identified by her brother, but in a tribute to diligent local detective work undertaken by Inspector George Feltham and PC Pegler of T Division, James Greenacre, who had been due to marry Hannah Brown, was successfully caught and convicted of her murder.

In February 1837, a 15-year-old boy named John Brill went missing near Uxbridge. The boy had recently been a witness against poachers, and one of their fathers joined the search party and found the boy's murdered body suspiciously quickly. The Commissioner sent Sergeant Charles Otway of A Division, the first recorded request for a Metropolitan Police officer to be sent to assist an investigation outside the Metropolitan Police District.

In days before the opening hours of public houses became restricted, a 21-year-old barmaid Eliza Davis was found murdered at the King's Arms public house near Regents Park early on the morning of 9 May 1837. Her throat had been cut, and the publican gave the description of a customer who was in the habit of coming in to the premises at about 6am. The murder investigation, by Inspector Aggs, was inconclusive, despite the help of PC Pegler who had helped track down James Greenacre, and although a great number of possible suspects were traced, none was identified by Mr Wadley the publican.

Another throat-cutting case involved the death of a good looking 28-year-old prostitute Eliza Grimwood who seemed to have made her living by crossing over the Thames from Lambeth to meet men at the West End theatres. Inspector Field from L Division traced a cab driver who had brought Eliza and a gentleman back to her lodgings, and made numerous other enquiries, including, at one point arresting the dead woman's partner, William Hubbard. Despite these heroic efforts, however, there was never sufficient evidence to close the case.

In June 1839, the police quickly arrived to put out a fire in a watchmaker's shop in Soho and in one of the smoke-filled rooms they found the murdered body of Robert Westwood. Over 80 of Mr Westwood's valuable watches had been stolen. There was no shortage of people who had a grievance against the prickly Mr Westwood, but whilst Superintendent Thomas Baker of C Division and Inspector Beresford traced many people who could help the inquest jury, there was no evidence to prove a case against any one suspect. Inspector Nicholas Pearce and Sergeant Charles Otway from A Division were drafted in to help the enquiry, and made many efforts to trace one of Westwood's neighbours, a paper-hanger by name of Nicholas Carron who had fled to America immediately after the murder. But again the case remained unsolved.

The prospect of a reward did clarify the person responsible for the fourth case, which occurred on 17 March 1840, when John Templeman of Pocock's Fields, Islington was found murdered. A suspect pot boy, Richard Gould, was prosecuted, but the case failed for lack of evidence. After Gould's acquittal of murder, Charles Otway pursued him to the ship in which he was about to sail for Sydney, armed with a warrant for the *burglary* of Mr Templeman's house, with which Gould had *not* previously been charged. Otway tricked Gould into signing a confession to the murder and brought him back to London where Gould was then sentenced to transportation. Despite, from Otway's point of view, making the best of an unsatisfactory outcome, the inducement, in the form of the prospect of sharing in a reward, was held to be unfair, and Charles Otway's career as a potential detective came to an end. This did not hold him back permanently, however, because he retired in May 1853 as the Superintendent of C Division.

In May 1840, when Lord William Russell fell victim to the fifth murder, the newspapers had begun to expect failure in these investigations, and the absence of an immediate arrest started to tip the scales of the argument towards appointing specialist detectives. The two uniform police constables who attended the scene near Park Lane, Mayfair, were followed by Inspector Tedman and a Sergeant of the neighbouring D Division. After them, in rapid succession, came Inspector Beresford and Superintendent Baker from C Division who had earlier been involved in the Robert Westwood case, and then even the Commissioner Richard Mayne.

Richard Mayne, who regularly undertook personal supervision of contentious murder cases, then called in from A Division the officer whom he judged best qualified for dealing with the case - Inspector Nicholas Pearce. The A Division operated from Great Scotland Yard itself and often acted as a reserve of well-qualified officers to deal with special assignments. Pearce, who had joined the new police as a Sergeant, had previous police experience by virtue of having been a Bow Street patrol. Pearce commenced his investigation by undertaking a careful search of Lord Russell's

home, and soon found evidence implicating his manservant Courvoisier, who was later duly convicted and sentenced to death. The case was solved.

In February 1837, a 15-year-old boy named John Brill went missing near Uxbridge. The boy had recently been a witness against poachers, and one of their fathers joined the search party and found the boy's murdered body suspiciously quickly. The Commissioner sent Sergeant Charles Otway of A Division, the first recorded request for a Metropolitan Police officer to be sent to assist an investigation outside the Metropolitan Police District.

The Brighton Trunk Murders 1934

On the 17th June 1934 William Joseph Vinnicombe, a cloak room attendant employed by the Southern Railway at Brighton Railway Station, noticed an offensive odour in the cloakroom and called Detective Bishop of the Railway Police who opened a trunk which contained parts of a human body.

The Chief Constable of Brighton called for assistance from Scotland Yard and the Metropolitan Police sent down Chief Inspector Robert Donaldson.

Donaldson questioned Henry George Rout who had received the trunk but he could not remember the depositor.

On 18 June another trunk had been discovered at Kings Cross Station in similar circumstances, and it contained two limbs. Very few clues were available and the victims could not be identified until a press reporter informed police about Violette Kaye, aged 42, a known prostitute in the Brighton area who was missing. A man named Tony Mancini, a 26-year old waiter and convicted thief, had been associated with her.

Donaldson interviewed Mancini (alias Notyre, but his real name was Cecil Lois England) and released him, but later took the precaution of having his lodgings checked at 52 Kemp Street. A large black trunk was discovered at Kemp Street, and this contained the body of Violet Kaye. There had been complaints about the smell in his room. Mancini was arrested on 17 July by two Metropolitan Police Constables of R Division who found him, observed him in the Eltham Road, Lee area of south east London and arrested him.

Mancini appeared at Lewes Assizes defended by the famous barrister Norman Birkett. The famous pathologist Bernard Spilsbury gave expert forensic evidence against him, but the prosecution failed because of doubts about whether he concealed Violette Kaye's body after she had already died or not. He had claimed that he had found her dead when he returned to their lodgings, and thought the police would not believe him as he had a criminal record, so he decided to keep the matter a secret and placed her in a trunk! A 1976 Sunday newspaper reported him admitting responsibility for the death, however!

As for the body in the trunks at Kings Cross and Brighton railway stations (known as Brighton Trunk Crime - Number 1) the case was never solved, and there was no evidence linking Mancini to this other murder.

The Development of Ballistics

The first case involving tracing a bullet wound back to a suspect occurred in 1794 when a surgeon removed and preserved a wad of paper from the gunshot wound which had killed a Lancashire man, Edward Culshaw. When the paper was unfolded, it was found to match the missing torn-off corner of a ballad sheet still in the pocket of the suspect John Toms.

A similar case occurred on 24 October 1860, when PC Alexander McBrian, a police officer in Wyberton, Lincolnshire, was shot by Thomas Richardson, a suspected poacher. The wadding found at the scene of the crime was compared with the paper in the other, undischarged, barrel of the suspect's double-barrelled shotgun recovered at his home. They were both found to have come from the very same page of *The Times* newspaper of 27 March 1854.

In relation to examining ammunition, the Bow Street officer, Henry Goddard, described one of his cases, in 1835, when he solved a case at the home of a Mrs Maxwell of Southampton whose butler, Joseph Randall, had apparently had an exchange of gunfire with burglars. Goddard was suspicious of Randall's story, and when he examined his guns and ammunition he found an identical pimple on all the bullets, including the one which had allegedly been fired at Randall. He then found a corresponding pinhead-sized hole in the mould from which the bullets had been made. This indicated that the bullet fired at Randall was in fact part of his own ammunition. In prison, Randall confessed to making up the story with a view to obtaining a reward from his mistress for his bravery in protecting her property, and was eventually released with a sharp warning from the court. Goddard's keen observation had linked a series of bullets together.

On Friday 1 December 1882, when PC George Cole caught a young thief trying to break into a chapel in Dalston, his prisoner escaped by firing a pistol at him as they ran through the dark foggy night, and PC Cole was killed. The offender left behind a chisel with the letters ‘rock’ scratched on it, and this was eventually

traced as belonging to Thomas Orrock. One of PC Cole's colleagues, Sergeant Cobb, found a mark on a tree on Tottenham Marshes where Orrock had been conducting target practice, and dug out a bullet which was then shown to be of the same type and weight as those recovered from PC Cole's body. James Squires, a gun maker of Whitechapel, testified that the bullet from Tottenham Marshes and the two bullets from the scene were all of the type fired from the pin fire cartridges used by the gun which had been bought (and later thrown away) by Orrock. This is probably the earliest recorded use of ballistics evidence by the Metropolitan Police.

In March 1903, Scotland Yard was asked to help the local police with enquiries into the disappearance of the wealthy Miss Camille Cecile Holland from her home at The Moat House Farm, Clavering in Essex. She had been living with Samuel Dougal, and had paid for the farm herself in April 1899. On 27 April, suspicions were confirmed when the officers succeeded in finding her body buried in a former drainage ditch. A revolver bullet had entered her skull behind her right ear, fracturing the inside of her skull on the left side but without passing through the bone. Mr Edwin Churchill, whose gun shop was situated near Strand in central London, was called in to help. He had experience of giving expert evidence on behalf of the prosecution, and was able to say that the bullet recovered from Miss Holland's head was the same type as a box of 34 unused .32 calibre bullets also found at the farm. Churchill was also able to say that the revolver must have been fired at a distance of between 6 and 12 inches from the victim's head. He came to this conclusion by systematically firing bullets into sheep's heads, with the assistance of his nephew Robert, to calculate the pattern of bullet penetration which would result. The question of powder burns, the classic evidence of a shot from close range, could not be assessed because the flesh had disappeared in the four years since Miss Holland's death. In due course, the ballistics evidence helped to convict Samuel Dougal of the murder, the culmination of an excellent investigation by Detective Inspector Eli Bower of Scotland Yard.

On 9 October 1912, however, *The Hooded Man* case occurred in Eastbourne, Sussex at the house of Countess Flora Sztaray, where Police Inspector Arthur Walls was shot dead after responding to a call that a burglar was hiding above the front porch. Eli Bower also investigated this case, and turned for ballistics advice to Robert

Churchill who had taken over the gun shop business after the death of his Uncle Edwin. Robert Churchill concluded, from the bullet which killed Arthur Walls, and a cartridge case recovered from the scene, that the weapon had been a .25 automatic pistol, and, because he knew the rifling details of all the various makes of gun which could fire that ammunition, he could give the police further information about what type of gun they should be looking for. After the police found parts of a gun on Eastbourne beach, Churchill fitted a new hammer and springs and then test-fired it. Those test bullets had the same rifling pattern as the bullet used to kill Inspector Walls, and Churchill had no doubt about his conclusions that it was a gun of that very same make which had fired the fatal bullet.

In order to demonstrate the technicalities of Churchill's evidence, Sergeant William McBride, one of the very first police photographers at Scotland Yard, used close-range photography to illustrate the pattern of the grooves on the bullets. He also collaborated with Churchill in placing dentist's wax inside the gun barrel, then withdrawing it when it had cooled and set hard. This enabled him to photograph the pattern in the wax, caused by the grooves of the *inside* of the gun barrel, showing the same profile that would match a lead bullet fired through that gun barrel. When John Williams was being escorted into court to face the murder charges, Eli Bower placed a spotted apron over Williams' head, since at that stage he had not been formally identified, and the trial then became known in the newspapers as the '*Hooded Man case*'. John Williams was not his real name. He had enlisted into the Royal Scots Regiment (No 6910) as George McKay on 9 October 1899 and had deserted on 15 October 1901.

One of the famous early cases involving what we now call ballistics was the murder of an Essex police officer PC George Gutteridge in 1927.

On Tuesday 27th September 1927 just before 6am a post office worker, Bill Ward, was driving in Essex near a place called Howe Green. Suddenly he saw a body by a bank at the side of the road and found PC George Gutteridge wearing his full uniform and cape, with his helmet and notebook

beside him, and his pencil still in his hand. He had been cruelly murdered by being shot four times in the face. Detective Inspector Crockford from Romford took up the investigation.

About 10 miles away a Morris Cowley motor car belonging to Dr Edward Lovell had been stolen from his garage in London Road Billericay. Some of his medical instruments and some drugs were in the car. But by the time the theft was reported, the car itself had already been spotted 42 miles away in a narrow passage behind 21 Faxley Road, Brixton. There were blood splashes on one of the running boards.

The police recovered the car and found a cartridge case marked RLIV. This marking indicated that it was an old Mark IV type made at the Royal Laboratory in Woolwich Arsenal for troops in the First World War. The case seemed to have been scarred by a fault in the breech block of the gun which had fired it. It was again Robert Churchill who found the crucial evidence that the bullet would have been fired by a Webley revolver. By this time he had acquired a comparison microscope to make examination of bullets easier.

The murder hunt went on for four months. At one point DCI Berrett of Scotland Yard and his assistant Sergeant Harris worked 130 out of 160 consecutive hours. The police suspected two car thieves Frederick Browne and Pat Kennedy but did not have any evidence.

Eventually the police had evidence against Browne for the theft of another car, a Vauxhall, and raided his premises. They found cartridges and a loaded Smith & Wesson in his room off Lavender Hill. He had been using a car he had part-exchanged for the stolen Vauxhall the police were interested in. And when the police searched that car they found yet another loaded revolver in a secret recess in the car. And it was a Webley.

And it was that Webley which Mr Churchill examined and found to be the very same one which had caused the peculiar mark on the cartridge case. Later Browne's accomplice Patrick (or William) Kennedy was arrested, but only after he had pressed a loaded firearm into the ribs of Sergeant Mattinson of Liverpool Police and pulled the trigger. But the gun clicked as a bullet jammed in the barrel, Sergeant Mattinson survived and both Kennedy and Browne were now in custody. They were later convicted of murder.

The *Sunday Dispatch* newspaper carried the headline "Hanged by a microscope" reflecting the fact that microscopic examination of the cartridge cases had provided the crucial evidence to convict them of an awful murder.

The first use of Identikit in Britain - The Cecil Court antique shop murder

No 23 Cecil Court, off London's Charing Cross Road WC2, used to be an antique shop owned by Louis Meyer. He had an assistant called Elsie Batten who was 59 years old. But on Friday 3rd March 1961 Elsie Batten was found stabbed to death in the shop.

Raymond Dagg was a detective sergeant at Bow Street at the time, and when he interviewed Louis Meyer and a neighbouring shop assistant they told him that they had seen a rather suspicious youth of Indian appearance at the shop a few days earlier.

But how would the witnesses describe the suspect? Raymond Dagg turned to America for help and used Identikit, which was then a new idea from the USA, originating from an invention by Hugh C Macdonald of the Los Angeles Police Department who had developed sets of facial features on transparencies to save time sketching descriptions of criminals in 1940 wartime Europe.

Raymond Dagg compiled a facial picture of the suspect from Louis Meyer, and then, completely independently, from the other witness. The two pictures bore a striking resemblance to each other. The pictures were circulated and published in the Press.

On the following Wednesday 8th March Hilton Cole, a policeman from the next station West End Central, saw Edwin Bush in Old Compton Street in Soho just off Shaftesbury Avenue - and recognised him from the identikit pictures. He arrested him on suspicion of being the murderer. Bush had a copy of the identikit pictures from a newspaper in his pocket. His shoes were similar to marks left at the scene. He was picked out at an identification parade by one of two witnesses, - and confessed to the murder.

He had also stolen a dress sword from the shop and had tried to sell it at a nearby gun shop. The paper in which the sword had been wrapped had been used to wrap up some goods bought by another customer at the gun shop and Bush's palm print was found on that paper when it was recovered by police.

Bush was later convicted and was executed on 6th July 1961 in Pentonville prison. It was the first use of identikit by Scotland Yard.

Identikit was, in due course, replaced by Photo-FIT , a system invented by Jacques Penry, a facial topographer who had been researching the subject since 1938, before Identikit was developed. Penry used photographs of facial features, which gave a better image of the suspect's face, rather than the line drawings of Identikit.

Photo-FIT was first used in relation to the murder of James Cameron in Islington in October 1970, where the Photo-FIT of the suspect was broadcast on *Police 5* on 22nd October 1970. The resulting publicity jogged the memory of a shop assistant who recognised a man who had bought an umbrella from his shop in Victoria with a cheque which had bounced, but the man had produced a firearms certificate to verify his identity, and this led to the arrest in Nottingham of John Ernest Bennett who was convicted of the murder.

As technology and computer systems developed further, the current system in use is *E-FIT*, launched in October 1988, and now developed and marketed by Aspley Ltd. It allows an operator to draw on a library of features stored within the computer, and then alter features, using special software, to match a witness's description. An early triumph for the system was the arrest of Colin Ireland, who was convicted of a series of murders of gay men in London. On 21 July 1993 Ireland gave himself up to police after seeing a police E-FIT image on a wanted poster, and whilst he initially gave a false

explanation of his contact with one of the victims, Emmanuel Spiteri, he changed his story and confessed when he was told that his fingerprint had been found at the scene of another murder in the series.

The notorious Dr Crippen

Hawley Harvey Crippen was an American, born in Michigan in 1862, who qualified as a doctor in 1885 and worked for a patent medicine company. He had come to England in 1900 and lived at 39 Hilldrop Crescent, Holloway from where he again worked in the patent medicine business. He lived, unhappily, with his second wife Cora Turner, who was trying to make her way as a music hall singer under the stage name of Belle Elmore.

Early in 1910 Belle disappeared, after having given notice of withdrawing her money from a joint deposit account. Crippen's remuneration from Munyon's patent medicine company had been transferred from salary to commission only, and he was therefore likely to have been in financial difficulty, especially as he had been entertaining his mistress and typist, Ethel le Neve, in hotels.

Ethel produced two letters, apparently from Cora, to the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, resigning her position as she had had to go to America. But the letters were not in Cora's handwriting.

Crippen moved Ethel into the house, and she began to wear his wife's clothing and jewellery. Belle Elmore's wondered what had happened to her, and Crippen had been telling them that she had moved back to the USA to see a sick relative. The friends went to Scotland Yard to report their suspicions.

Detective Chief Inspector Walter Dew visited Crippen, but Crippen claimed that his wife had eloped with a lover. A search did not reveal anything suspicious, and Dew withdrew to make further enquiries.

Worried by this turn of events, Crippen and Ethel le Neve left the country for Antwerp, and then embarked on *ss Montrose* bound for Canada in the names of Mr and Master Robinson, with Ethel in disguise as a boy.

When the police returned to Hilldrop Crescent amore thorough search was undertaken and parts of a female body were found buried beneath the cellar.

Dr Bernard Spilsbury, later to become the famous pathologist, identified the remains as that of Mrs Crippen from a piece of abdominal scar tissue, and found that there were traces of a poison hyoscene in the body.

The rest of the body was never found, despite further through searches and digging up the garden.

Meanwhile Crippen and Ethel le Neve were circulated as wanted.

Captain Kendall, the master of the *ss Montrose,* became suspicious of two of his passengers, a Mr John Robinson and his "16-year old "son" and used the new telegraph system to alert his ship owners of his suspicion that they were Crippen and Ethel le Neve. This was the first example of a ship-to-shore telegraph being used to catch a fugitive criminal.

Walter Dew took a faster ship, the *ss Laurentic,* and arrested Crippen before he could land in Canada, to the rapt excitement of the public who had been kept informed of every move by the excited press.

Crippen appeared at the Old Bailey and claimed that even if the remains in the cellar had been a woman, or even of Belle Elmore, they must have been buried there without his knowledge, but

Bernard Spilsbury's evidence proved the identity of the remains, and the jury convicted him of murder after 5 days of evidence and 27 minutes of consideration. Ethel le Neve was tried separately and acquitted.

Baby Farming

One of the more distasteful aspects of Victorian England was the practice of taking in unwanted babies, and, in return for a commercial fee, either over-crowding them, or killing them. It was known as baby farming

Sergeant Richard Relf became the first Metropolitan Police investigator semi-officially recognised for his expertise in relation to a specific type of crime. Relf's investigation into 18 dead infants found in Brixton over a short period of time led to baby farmer Margaret Walters being executed for the murders. Relf then became an advisor for other similar enquiries until his retirement.

Charles Dickens had reported on the Tooting baby farm run by a man called Drouet ten years beforehand, but the case which perhaps gained most notoriety was that of Mrs Dyer, who was executed in 1896.

The investigation started when two bargemen on the River Thames found a parcel which had been weighed down, but disturbed by their barge pole. Inside was the dead body of a baby, but the paper in which the body was wrapped led police to the "respectable" Mrs Dyer of Reading. She was known as a "benevolent old lady with a motherly heart, whose one pardonable weakness was a pronounced fondness for babies of all descriptions."

The police then started dragging the river and found yet more bodies of babies in that part of the river, each of which had been weighted with a brick.

In January 1896, Miss Marmon, a barmaid in Cheltenham, had found herself unable to care for her child properly, and answered an advert from a "Mrs Harding" seeking a child for adoption. "Mrs

Harding" duly arrived, took £10 as a fee for looking after the child, and made Miss Marmon happy that her child's future was now secure, especially with such an apparently motherly figure to look after her. Miss Marmon identified "Mrs Harding" to the court as none other than Mrs Dyer.

In an age when the intervention of social workers is sometimes resented, it is worth remembering the practices which led to social reformers to introduce regulations into child care and adoption.

Daniel Good (1792 - 1842) is hunted by Nicholas Pearce

Daniel Good was famous for showing up the faults of the communication systems of the 19th century police after he had committed a murder in Putney Park on 3rd April 1842, escaped from a police officer, and travelled around different parts of London and Kent, thereby evading arrest until the following month. The Detective Branch was set up in August of that year to improve efficiency in catching suspects like Good.

On 11th April 1842, PC William Gardner was called to investigate the theft of a pair of trousers from a pawnbroker's shop in Wandsworth High Street. The suspect, Daniel Good worked as a coachman in Putney Park, and PC Gardner went to the house, interviewed him, and started a thorough search of the stables where Good worked. In the last stable, PC Gardner took a closer look with his lantern at what he thought was a plucked goose, but before he could act on the fact that the object was a dead body, Good took his chance to flee from the stable, and, even worse, locked PC Gardner, Good's own son, and two shop boys in the stable.

Over the next few days, nine divisions of the Metropolitan Police became involved in the chase for Daniel Good. Good always seemed to be a day or so ahead of the pursuing police, and this was reported in great detail by a critical Press.

Inspector Nicholas Pearce, assisted by Sergeant Stephen Thornton, both of whom were later to be among the original select band of six officers appointed for detective duties, took up the case and followed Good's trail from Spitalfields to Deptford, and then to Bromley where they could find no other clues. Two weeks later, Good was traced to Tonbridge where he was working as a bricklayer's labourer. One of his work mates, Thomas Rose, was a former police officer who recognised him and told the local police.

Daniel Good was tried, found guilty of murder and publicly hanged at Newgate on 23rd May 1842, unaware that he had unwittingly contributed to the Metropolitan Police improving their crime fighting performance by introducing specialist detectives.

Nicholas Pearce had transferred to the New Police from the Bow Street patrol, and eventually ended up as the Superintendent of F Division. Worn out by ill health he was granted a pension of £166 pa that he drew for three years until he died in Cornwall on 15 December 1858. Immediately before the Daniel Good case, Pearce had solved the Eskdaleside murder of Mrs Jane Robinson in one of the first cases in which an officer from Scotland Yard was sent to investigate a serious crime in the provinces. A miller, William Hill had been charged with the murder and acquitted, but Pearce traced a Thomas Redhead who had almost certainly committed the offence, but had died of smallpox shortly before Pearce traced him.

Neville Heath - a dangerous man for a woman to have known

It was at the Pembridge Court Hotel in May 1946, just after the War, where a 32 year old woman Margery Gardner went to a hotel room with a good-looking younger man, the so-called Lt Colonel Neville Heath. They settled in to a night of adventure in the hotel room, but an alert member of the hotel staff interrupted proceedings, and, in retrospect, probably saved Margery Gardner's life.

But Margery Gardner was a risk taker and agreed to accompany Heath back to his room in the same hotel on 20th June. Heath opened the hotel door with his key - there was no night porter - and he took her up to Room 4. The next morning the chambermaid found the room in disarray, and the dead body of Margery Gardener, horribly mutilated. There was no sign of Heath, who by this time had gone down to visit his unofficial fiancee - a Miss Symonds - in Worthing. From there he went to Bournemouth - with a new name and rank of Group Captain Rupert Brooke.

On 3rd July he entertained Miss Doreen Marshall to dinner at the West Cliff hotel, Bournemouth, and escorted her out of the premises at about 11.30pm. Doreen Marshall was never seen alive again. The so-called Rupert Brooke was called on to help the Bournemouth police to investigate her disappearance, and the local police officer, Detective Constable Souter, recognised his similarity to pictures of Heath issued by Scotland Yard and challenged him. Heath denied it, but he was kept at the station until Detective Inspector George Gates arrived.

The police found a railway ticket belonging to Doreen Marshall, a pearl from her necklace, and a left luggage ticket. George Gates reclaimed Heath's left luggage, opened his suitcase and found articles with the name Heath on. He also found blood-stained clothing which had hairs which came from Margery Gardner and a blood-stained riding switch.

Detective Inspector Reg Spooner from Scotland Yard arrived and took him back to London, at about the same time as Doreen Marshall's body was found, again brutally and sadistically murdered.

Heath went for trial at the Old Bailey and because of the forensic science evidence against him, the only issue was whether he was mad or not. He was found sane, and Guilty. When he was about to be hanged he is said to have asked the hangman Albert Pierrepoint for a whisky, and then added "I think I'll make it a double"

The Development of Serology and the Discovery of DNA

In the nineteenth century, murder trials relied on the opinion of a doctor or police officer that stains were blood, and were indeed human blood. There was no scientific method of confirming such an opinion because the science of analysing blood (serology) had not yet been born. In 1866, for instance Inspector Richard Tanner was sent to Duddlewick to investigate the murder of 18-year-old Edward Edwards. The victim's uncle, John Meredith was charged and eventually acquitted, notwithstanding blood stains on his clothing which was sent to Professor Alfred Swaine Taylor at Guy's Hospital, the foremost equivalent of a forensic scientist of the day. At the inquest, professor Taylor explained that it was not possible to distinguish between animal and human blood.

In due course, the Kastle-Meyer test was developed. That test could confirm, at the scene of a crime, whether a stain was blood, but not whether the blood was human or animal. In 1901 Paul Uhlenhuth, an assistant professor at the University of Greifswald, Germany, built on the earlier work of a Belgian scientist Jules Bordet and developed the preciptin test which can show whether a blood stain is human or animal in origin. If protein from a chicken's egg is injected into rabbits, and their serum then mixed with egg white, the egg proteins separate and form a cloudy precipitate substance. This reaction is common to any animal and was the basis of developing inoculations and protective antibodies, but it was also a reaction which could help forensic science to determine whether blood was human. This preciptin test was used to investigate a child murder in Germany in 1901, and formed part of the evidence which resulted Ludwig Tessnow being executed for that crime in 1904.

Blood grouping (eg A, B, O) started to be developed by Karl Landsteiner in 1901 and medical knowledge gradually developed further. In 1925 it was discovered that blood groups could be determined from many people's body secretions such as saliva and urine, and by the mid-1960s the

work of Drs Margaret Pereira and Brian Culliford at Scotland Yard's forensic science laboratory had applied the medical principles of analysing blood to the point where they could often link the identity of a suspect with a blood stain to a very high degree of accuracy.

The 1934 murder of 8-year-old Helen Priestly in Aberdeen was notable for its forensic science evidence, involving Sir Sydney Smith. The missing girl had had been found dead in a stairwell, apparently the victim of a sexual attack, but the lack of sperm apparent at the scene, and the nature of the injuries led Police to doubt this. A sack, used to wrap the body, contained washed cinders, and a woman Jeannie Donald was the only woman in the tenement block who washed ash from the fire to dispose of it. Some stains at her flat were found to be of blood group O, the same as Helen Priestly, but the presence of a rare bacterial infection was found on Jeannie Donald's floor cloths, exactly matching samples from the victim, who suffered from an enlarged thymus, making her more prone to infections and to fainting. One theory was that having been rude, and then been grabbed by Jeannie Donald, the girl had fainted, and that Jeannie Donald had then panicked and thought that she had killed the girl. She had then tried to make the victim appear to have been the victim of a sexual attack.

Some people's body fluids were capable of being analysed to determine their blood group, but 14% of the population were not, and known as non-secretors. In January 1939, for instance, when Leonard Richardson was suspected of the murder of 14-year-old Pamela Coventry in Hornchurch, Essex, one of his cigarette butts was analysed to establish whether it matched a butt found at the scene, but he was found to be a non-secretor, a fact confirmed when his handkerchiefs were examined. On his raincoat were spots of blood, which were human, but these, at the time, were too small to analyse in detail. Although the cigarette papers and tobacco matched that used by Richardson, his prosecution for murder failed for lack of sufficient evidence.

Detective Chief Inspector Leonard Burt had better success with cigarette butts in May 1939 when investigating the murder in Bournemouth of Walter Dinivan, who had been found murdered in his home with two glasses which suggested that he had been entertaining his killer. Whilst conducting an interview, Burt preserved the cigarette butt of a suspect Joseph Williams who was not only a secretor, but was of an unusual blood group AB, the same as that found at the flat. His thumb print was also found in the flat. Williams knew Dinivan, but the jury acquitted him.

In 1968 the murder of Claire Josephs was solved almost entirely by forensic science. The victim had a blood group which was found in only 0.6% of the population in the country, and the suspect Roger Payne's blood group was found in only 4.4% of the population. A handkerchief was found on which both groups were found, and bloodstains of Claire Joseph's group were found in Payne's car. There were also very distinctive fibres from the victim's dress which had transferred on to Payne's clothing, and he was duly convicted. By 1974 some samples could be shown as a 1 in 10,000 chance a blood stain did not belong to a given suspect. At the scene of the Laitner family murder in Sheffield in 1983, a blood stain was found which would be found in only 1 in 50,000. the laboratory had already analysed the blood of a local criminal Arthur Hutchinson, and his palm print was also found at the scene.

DNA is a more fundamental part of living tissue which carries the genetic information of a human being. Identical twins have the same DNA (but different fingerprints) but otherwise DNA can now identify a suspect with absolute certainty, and samples can be taken from flesh, bone, hair roots and body secretions such as sweat. It is also possible to determine that a perpetrator must have been closely related to somebody's DNA on the database, which in itself can narrow down the search for the culprit (familial DNA).

The first notable application of the technology was a Leicester case when Professor Alec Jeffreys developed the scientific method which proved the innocence of a 17-year old kitchen porter who had "confessed" to the murders of Lynda Mann (1983) and Dawn Ashworth (1986) and thereby confirmed circumstantial evidence against him. The DNA evidence proved that he could not have been the murderer, however, and he was discharged at Leicester Magistrates Court on 21st November 1986.

The police investigation resumed, now using DNA technology as the means of screening all men in the area, and eventually Colin Pitchfork was identified as the real perpetrator. DNA had proved both innocence and guilt in this landmark case.

The first conviction using DNA was at Bristol Crown Court on 13th November 1987 when Robert Melias pleaded guilty to rape after scientists calculated that the chance of the sample from the scene not coning from him was 1 in 4 million of the male population. It is possible, however, that a DNA paternity test was responsible for the conviction at the Old Bailey in late summer 1987 of a man for unlawful sexual intercourse, as mentioned in *The Blooding* by Joseph Wambaugh (p 250 Bantam 1989)

The Christmas-time1988 murder of 22-year old Lorraine Benson in South-West London in a stranger attack was solved by DNA. Traces of saliva found at the scene could not be blood-grouped by Scotland Yard's forensic science laboratory, but were then passed on to the lab's DNA unit. A man's handkerchief found at the scene provided a good sample for DNA testing of the suspect and it also contained blood proved as Lorraine Benson's. In February 1989, a John Dunne was arrested for an unrelated case of attempted rape, and the sample taken from him was analysed by the laboratory. The mucus on the handkerchief matched his DNA to the degree that there was only a 1 in 1,497,000 chance that he had not been at the scene of Lorraine Benson's murder. Dunne admitted the murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment at the Old Bailey.

The first database of criminals' DNA was set up the the Forensic Science Service in 1995, and by 1999, matches between crime scenes and suspects had reached about 500 per week, many of them connected with burglary and other crimes not involving violence.

In 2001 a DNA sample from the exhumed body of James Hanratty was found to match samples apparently found on two exhibits from the Michael Gregsten A6 murder case, thereby confirming his conviction in a contentious murder case of many years' standing.

The Whitechapel Murders

and Jack the Ripper

Background

A series of murders in 1888 - 1891 in London's East End were investigated with increasing urgency by Scotland Yard. The murder victims were all women, and were linked by gruesome disfigurement by the perpetrator, who was never identified. The murderer became known as Jack the Ripper because of a letter sent to Scotland Yard, apparently by the murderer. The identity of Jack the Ripper has been a mystery ever since.

It is worth reflecting how much modern investigation techniques and forensic science have advanced since those days, but murders by a stranger committed in public places out of the sight of witnesses are still difficult to solve today.

Suspects

Because of the ways in which the victims were mutilated with a sharp knife or scalpel, medical knowledge or skill at wielding a knife has become one of the criteria for suspicion. The four main suspects can be listed as:

1. Kosminski, a poor Polish Jew resident in Whitechapel;

2. Montague John Druitt, a 31 year old barrister and school teacher who committed suicide in December 1888;
3. Michael Ostrog, a Russian-born multi-pseudonymous thief and confidence trickster, believed to be 55 years old in 1888, and detained in asylums on several occasions;

Dr Francis J. Tumblety, 56 years old, an American 'quack' doctor, who was arrested in November 1888 for offences of gross indecency, and fled the country later the same month, having obtained bail at a very high price.

The first three of these suspects were nominated by Sir Melville Macnaghten, second in command of the Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) at Scotland Yard in June 1889. They were named in a report dated 23 February 1894, although there is no evidence of contemporary police suspicion against the three at the time of the murders. Indeed, Macnaghten's report contains several odd factual errors.

Kosminski was certainly suspected by the head of the C.I.D. Dr. Robert Anderson, and the officer in charge of the case, Chief Inspector Donald Swanson. Druitt appears to have been Macnaghten's preferred candidate, whilst the fact that Ostrog was arrested and imprisoned before the report was compiled leaves the historian puzzling why he was included as a viable suspect.

The fourth suspect, Tumblety, was stated to have been "amongst the suspects" at the time of the murders and "to my mind a very likely one," by the ex-head of the Special Branch at Scotland Yard in 1888, ex-Detective Chief Inspector John George Littlechild. He confided his thoughts in a letter dated 23 September, 1913, to the criminological journalist and author George R Sims.

The list is contentious for those who have studied the case. Arguments can be made against all of them being the culprit, and no hard evidence exists against any of them. The police were at no stage in a position to prove a case against anyone, and it is highly unlikely a positive case will ever be proved.

For the benefit of those seeking to learn more about the murders, the factual basis of the events are set out below:

The crimes

Date	**Victim**	**Circumstances**
Tuesday 3 April 1888	*Emma Elizabeth Smith*	*Assaulted and robbed in Osborn Street, Whitechapel.*
Tuesday 7 August 1888	*Martha Tabram*	*George Yard Buildings, George Yard, Whitechapel.*
Friday 31 August 1888	*Mary Ann Nichols*	*Buck's Row, Whitechapel,*
Saturday 8 September 1888	*Annie Chapman*	*Rear Yard at 29 Hanbury Street, Spitalfields.*
Sunday 30 September 1888	*Elizabeth Stride*	*Yard at side of 40 Berner Street, St Georges-in-the- East.*
Sunday 30 September 1888	*Catherine Eddowes*	*Mitre Square, Aldgate, City of London.*

Friday 9 November 1888	*Mary Jane Kelly*	*13 Miller's Court, 26 Dorset Street Spitalfields.*

Thursday 20 December 1888	*Rose Mylett*	*Clarke's Yard, High Street. Poplar.*
Wednesday 17 July 1889	*Alice McKenzie*	*Castle Alley, Whitechapel.*
Tuesday 10 September 1889	*Unknown female torso*	*Found under railway arch in Pinchin Street, Whitechapel,*
Friday 13 February 1891	*Frances Coles*	*Under railway arch, Swallow Gardens, Whitechapel.*

Over the years, mainly as a result of Macnaghten's beliefs, the 'Ripper'-victims have been listed as

1. Nichols
2. Chapman
3. Stride
4. Eddowes
5. Kelly, with
6. Tabram having gained favour more recently as a possible sixth in the opinion of some historians.

Throat cutting attended the murders of Nichols, Chapman, Stride, Eddowes, Kelly, McKenzie and Coles. In all except the cases of Stride and Mylett there was abdominal mutilation. In the case of Chapman the uterus was taken away by the killer; Eddowes' uterus and left kidney were taken; and in Kelly's case, evidence suggests, the heart.

The murder of Mary Kelly, in November 1888, was accompanied by mutilation of such ferocity that it beggared description, and, for once, left the press short of superlatives. The murder had been committed on the day of the investiture of the new Mayor of London and the celebrations were soon overshadowed by the news of the Ripper's latest atrocity.

The murders were considered too complex for the local Whitechapel (H) Division C.I.D, headed by Detective Inspector Edmund Reid, to handle alone. Assistance was sent from the Central Office at Scotland Yard, after the Nichols murder, in the persons of Detective Inspectors, Frederick George Abberline, Henry Moore, and Walter Andrews, together with a team of subordinate officers. Reinforcements were drafted into the area to supplement the local men. After the Eddowes murder the City Police, under Detective Inspector James McWilliam, were also engaged on the hunt for the killer.

Every one of these murders remained unsolved. No person was ever convicted of any of them.

Non-Ripper murders

Certainly the evidence indicates that Smith was murdered by a group of three young hoodlums. The police investigated a suspicion that Tabram was murdered by a soldier. Mylett, who was not even murdered according to Assistant Commissioner Robert Anderson, was probably strangled by a client.

McKenzie's wounds indicated yet a different killer. The 'Pinchin Street torso' was undoubtedly an exercise in the disposal of a body, and Coles was possibly murdered by a male companion, James Thomas Sadler, who was arrested and, certainly for a while, suspected of being the Ripper.

The "Dear Boss" letter

The name *Jack the Ripper* is easy to explain. It was written at the end of a letter, dated 25 September, 1888, and received by the Central News Agency on 27 September, 1888. They, in turn, forwarded it to the Metropolitan Police on 29 September.

The letter was couched in lurid prose and began "Dear Boss....." It went on to speak of "That joke about Leather Apron gave me real fits....." ('Leather Apron' was a John Pizer, briefly suspected at the time of the Chapman murder). "I am down on whores and I shan't quit ripping them till I do get buckled..."; and so on in a similar vein. The appended "trade name" of Jack the Ripper was then made public and further excited the imagination of the populace.

The two murders of 30 September 1888 gave the letter greater importance and to underline it the unknown correspondent again committed red ink to postcard and posted it on 1 October. In this communication he referred to himself as 'saucy Jacky...' and spoke of the "double event....." He again signed off as Jack the Ripper. The status of this correspondence is still being discussed by modern historians.

The message on the wall

Immediately after the Eddowes murder a piece of her bloodstained apron was found in a doorway in Goulston Street, Whitechapel. Above the piece of apron, on the brick fascia in the doorway, was the legend, in chalk,

"The Juwes are The men that Will not be Blamed for nothing." A message from the murderer, or simply anti-Semitic graffiti? Expert opinion is divided.

Press Coverage

It was at this time that the panic was at its height and the notoriety of the murders was becoming truly international, appearing in newspapers from Europe to the Americas. Even at this early stage the newspapers were carrying theories as to the identity of the killer, including doctors, slaughterers, sailors, and lunatics of every description.

A popular image of the killer as a 'shabby genteel' man in dark clothing, slouch hat and carrying a shiny black bag was also beginning to gain currency. The press, especially the nascent tabloid papers, were having a field day. With no Whitechapel murders in October there was still plenty to write about. There were dozens of arrests of suspects "on suspicion" (usually followed by quick release); there was a police house-to-house search, handbills were circulated, and Vigilance Committee members and private detectives flooded the streets.

The discovery of a female torso in the cellars of the new police headquarters under construction at Whitehall (the Norman Shaw building) added to the air of horror on 2 October, 1888. The floodgates to a deluge of copy cat 'Jack the Ripper' letters were opened, and added to the problems of the police.

An unpleasant experience befell the Chairman of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, builder George Lusk, on 16 October, 1888, when he received half a human kidney in a cardboard box through the post. With this gruesome object was a letter scrawled in a spidery band and addressed "from Hell ....." It finished. "signed Catch me when you can Mishter Lusk." The writer claimed to have fried and ate the other half of the "kidne," which was "very nise." The shaken Lusk took both kidney and letter to the police. The police, and police

surgeon felt it was probably a hoax by a medical student, although others believed it was part of Eddowes' missing organ.

Inquests

Well-attended and lengthy inquests were held by Coroner Wynne Baxter on the majority of the victims. By the time the murders came to an end in 1891, the proprietors of the Working Lads' Institute had had enough of the noisy, unruly, proceedings and informed Baxter that he should find a different venue for his next inquest.

The Metropolitan Commissioner of Police, Sir Charles Warren, resigned at the time of the Kelly murder, after a long history of dispute with the Home Office, and was replaced by James Monro.

The panic subsides

After the Kelly murder, and many more abortive arrests, the panic began to die down a little and a more quiescent atmosphere began to reign. In early 1889 lnspector Abberline left, to take on other cases, and the inquiry was handed over to Inspector Henry Moore. His last extant report on the murders is dated 1896, when another 'Jack the Ripper' letter was received. There were brief flurries of press activity and wild suggestions that the 'Ripper' had returned on the occasions of the subsequent murders. However, Sadler was the last serious suspect arrested, and his seafaring activities obviated him from blame for the 1888 murders.

The files and other source material

A number of relevant files and documents are available in the National Archives at Ruskin Avenue, Kew.

Jonathan Whicher and the Road Hill House Murder

Jonathan Whicher was one of the original members of the Detective Branch which had been established at Scotland Yard in 1842. In 1860 he was called in to assist the investigation into the horrific murder of a child (Francis) Savile Kent who was just short of his fourth birthday. Savile is sometimes spelled differently. The child had been taken from the nursemaid's bedroom at night and was found, with his throat cut, in an outside privy in the garden of his family's house the next morning. The murder brought notoriety to the small village of Road, Wiltshire.

In the house lived Samuel Savile Kent, a factory inspector with ambitions for promotion, who had suffered from the effects of local gossip and disapproval, and had therefore moved house several times. His first wife, Mary Ann, bore no fewer than 10 children between 1829 and 1845, one of whom, Constance Emily, was born in February 1844. Samuel Kent was rumoured to have started an affair with the resident governess, Mary Drew Pratt, and after his wife had suddenly died in May 1852, he married the governess in August 1853. She eventually bore him five other children, including, in 1856, Francis Savile Kent, the murder victim.

When the nursemaid, Elizabeth Gough, reported the child missing at 7.15am to Mrs Kent, a search commenced for him, but Mr Kent personally drove off to Trowbridge to inform Superintendent Foley rather than relying on the local police to pass a message, and seemed to have more knowledge about the details of the crime than he later admitted.

A controversial inquest took place, in which the coroner first restricted the witnesses to servants of the house, police officers and medical practitioners. It needed the jury to insist that the family itself be questioned. The coroner went to the house and even then questioned only Constance and her brother William. Mr and Mrs Kent were never formally examined.

Whicher was called in to help, and started his enquiries by concentrating on a missing nightdress belonging to Constance. He established that Constance had had an opportunity to have withdrawn another of her night garments from the laundry basket as a ruse to blame the shortage of night wear on to the local woman who did the household's laundry. He reported his suspicions to the magistrates. There was also other circumstantial evidence.

The magistrates directed Constance's arrest and gave Whicher seven days to prepare the case against her. Mr Kent provided a barrister for his daughter who dominated proceedings. Constance was released on bail and the case was later dropped. The reaction in the newspapers was sympathetic to Constance and Whicher was heavily criticised. His reputation never recovered. The nightdress was never found and Whicher returned to London.

Subsequently the local police conducted a prosecution against Elizabeth Gough, but that also failed.

The case is a classic illustration of how early investigations were directed heavily by magistrates, of the influence which well-to-do people could exert over local police officers, and of the importance of immediately searching and questioning the whole household at the scene of a crime, regardless of social status.

Later, Constance Kent admitted her crime after a conversation with the Mother Superior at the religious establishment at Brighton where she lived, and went to Bow Street court where she made a confession of carrying out the crime. She pleaded Guilty and was sentenced to death, but later reprieved by Queen Victoria. By the time of her confession, Whicher had been retired from the Police Service because of ill health, and some of the newspapers which were so critical of him at the time, published editorials vindicating his original judgement.

The Kray twins - jailed in 1969.

Reginald and Ronald Kray were notorious criminals whose obsession with assaulting others, encouraging each other to greater levels of violence, and extending their personal power and domination culminated in a serious protection racket in London and a number of murders. Their blatant violence and unstable mental condition, particularly of Ronald Kray, led to intimidation of witnesses and the prospect of their escaping justice until they were arrested and convicted by the efforts of a special squad of detectives led by Detective Superintendent Leonard ("Nipper") Read.

The twins were born in 1933 and made their first appearance at the Old Bailey in 1950, where the case of assault was dismissed for lack of evidence. In 1952 they entered a period of National Service remarkable for their violence, serious trouble with the military authorities and periods in custody. After being released, they commenced a period of increasing control over criminals, pubs and clubs in the East End of London. On 5th November 1956 Ronald Kray was jailed for 3 years for assaulting Terence Martin in a gang-related incident, later became friends in Wandsworth prison with Frank Mitchell and was diagnosed as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia. His violence worsened after his release.

In February 1960 Reginald Kray was imprisoned for 18 months for protection-related threats, and whilst he was in prison, Peter Rachman, the head of a violent landlord operation, gave Ronald the *Esmeralda's Barn* night club in Knightsbridge which served to increase the twins' influence in the West End, and with some "celebrities" and famous people, rather than East End criminals. They were assisted by a banker Alan Cooper who needed protection from the rival Richardson gang from South London.

Christmas 1965 marked a confrontation between the Krays and Richardsons at the Astor Club when a Richardson henchman, George Cornell, referred to Ronald Kray as a "fat poof". A gang war followed, and a Kray ally Richard Hart was murdered at Mr Smith's club in Catford on 8th March 1966. Ronald Kray took revenge by killing George Cornell in The Blind Beggar public house, Whitechapel Road. Intimidation prevented any witnesses from cooperating with police.

On 12th December 1966 the Krays assisted Frank Mitchell ("The Mad Axeman") to escape from Dartmoor prison, but Mitchell became increasingly violent and unstable whilst staying in a flat in Barking Road. He disappeared and the Kray twins were later acquitted of his murder, allegedly on 23 December 1966 in London E6. The body was never recovered.

Ronald gave a gun and £100 to Jack "The Hat" McVitie with instructions to murder Leslie Payne and the promise of a further £400 when the murder had taken place. Payne remained alive, but it was Reginald who went to collect the £100. He was moved by McVitie's tale of sorrow and gave McVitie £50. This infuriated Ronald, and led to a stand-off between the Krays and McVitie, culminating in the Krays inviting him to a "party" where Reginald, egged on by Ronald, murdered him. McVitie's was another body not recovered.

The Krays tested Alan Cooper by suggesting that he carry out a murder, and Cooper in turn recruited Paul Elvey to do the work for him. Elvey was arrested, and Detective Superintendent Read's team interviewed him. Elvey confessed, and Cooper became implicated in three attempted murders. Through Cooper there would be evidence against the Krays.

The Kray twins were arrested on 9th May 1968 and once they were detained in police custody, witnesses slowly started to develop the confidence to give evidence of the truth to the police team.

The trial lasted 39 days at the Old Bailey and the Kray twins were sentenced to life imprisonment, thereby removing from London a notorious criminal influence.